UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/881
16 August 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 16 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to express to you our strongest indignation at the actions committed by the Rwandan and Ugandan aggressor troops in Kisangani, capital of the eastern province, during the past two weeks.

My Government is dismayed that forces foreign to the Democratic Republic of the Congo are fighting a pitched battle with heavy weapons in Kisangani, a city of over 1 million inhabitants, with complete impunity and in full view of the international community.

My Government reminds the Security Council that it designated Rwanda and Uganda as the aggressor countries from the onset of the Congolese question on 2 August 1998. The unfortunate events now unfolding in Kisangani are further tangible proof of the armed aggression against the Democratic Republic of the Congo by this Rwandan-Ugandan coalition.

By means of this letter, my Government wishes to bring this matter before the Security Council and to request that august United Nations body to meet urgently in order to:

1. Take note of and condemn the serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law which the armed forces of the Rwandan-Ugandan coalition are committing against the innocent citizens of Kisangani;

2. Take note of and condemn the interruption, as a result of this fighting, of the national immunization days, which were to have enabled 10 million Congolese children to be immunized against poliomyelitis. The Security Council should also take a stand on the misappropriation and destruction of United Nations vaccines and equipment earmarked for this immunization campaign, which the Secretary-General of the United Nations undertook personally to promote;

3. Take note of and adopt sanctions against Rwanda and Uganda for the systematic pillaging of the raw materials of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is the real motive behind this invasion, contrary to the false

pretext of security considerations which the two aggressor countries are flaunting in their vain, deliberate attempt to deceive the international community as to the real reasons for their criminal enterprise in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

4. Demand an immediate halt to the fighting between these invasion forces in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

5. Demand the immediate withdrawal of the invasion forces in order that peace and national harmony may prevail once more in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government would also like the Security Council to obtain from Rwanda and Uganda:

1. Respect for the signature which their Heads of State affixed to the document containing the agreement on a ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, signed at Lusaka, Zambia, on 10 July 1999;

2. The signing by their protégés, namely, the so-called rebels of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD) and the Mouvement pour la Libération du Congo (MLC), of that ceasefire agreement, in order to speed up the implementation of the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

My Government would be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) André MWAMBA KAPANGA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative